

A CELEBRATION *Of Life*



Edward Lanslotte Solomon

"Sollie"

February 12, 1942 – November 27, 2022

Lions Community Center
Red Bay
George Town, Grand Cayman

Saturday, January 7th, 2023

Service at 11:00am

Officiating – Pastor Alson Ebanks

Interment Service – Bodden Town Cemetery



Order of Service

Musical Prelude/Slideshow	
Processional	
Opening Remarks and Prayer.....	Pastor Alson Ebanks
“This is my Desire”	Church of God Chapel Worship Team
Scripture Reading.....	Pastor James Pedley
“Winter of Your Love”	Humble & The Meek
Tribute— Church of God Chapel George Town Prison Ministry.....	Cathy Gomez
Brother’s and Grandson’s Tribute “The Departure Lounge”	Kerith McCoy & Zayden Solomon
Song.....	Mainstream
Tribute from Jamil.....	Shomari Scott
Tribute from Tauna.....	Faith Rochez
Tribute from Krista.....	Faith Rochez
“What A Wonderful World” & “Lean On Me”	Cayman Musicians Collective
Eulogy.....	Hon. Roy Bodden
Sermon.....	Pastor Alson Ebanks
“Amazing Grace”	Church of God Chapel Worship Team
Prayer for the Family and Benediction.....	Pastor Alson Ebanks

Pallbearers

Jamil Solomon	Raymond E. Robinson	Sean Hennings
Troy McCoy	Nevron Bradshaw	Jesse Jesus Alberto
Kevin McCoy	Jerome McCoy	

Honorary Pallbearers

Zayden Solomon	Darrell Dacres	Jim Turner
Logan Alcott	Richard Ebanks	Romeo Palmisano
Harwell McCoy	Lambert Seymour	Gaston Maloney
Kerith McCoy	Trai Byers	Jeff Japal
Michael Alcott	Jean-eric Smith	Winston Ebanks
John Henry Ebanks	Hubert Campbell	Bunny Myles
Osbourne Bodden	Carl Gordon	Bob Ebanks
Leonard Bodden	Andre Iton	Renwick Conolly
Freddie Cayasso	Gary Ebanks	Dr. Sidney Ebanks
Roy Bodden	Errol McLaughlin	Dr. Darley Solomon
Junior Jennings	Mitchell “Jah Mitch” Ebanks	Leonard (Lennie) Hew
Garvin “Pony” Bodden	Edlin Myles	Cecil Goddard
Chuck Quappe	Elmer Alcott	Peter Gauci
Ansell Anderson	Blake Hurlston	Cassidy Jackson

Ushers

Church of God Chapel
George Town—Men’s Ministry

Guest Book Attendants

Bonnie Anglin
Pam Myrie
Patricia Ulett
Linda McPeek

Edward's Journey

Edward Lanslotte Solomon, known to almost everyone as "Sollie" was born in the district of Bodden Town on February 12th, 1942 to Julia Mirindi Berry (nee Solomon) and Harwell (Harry) Moncrieff McCoy Sr. He went to All Age School in Bodden Town and frequently attended church with his mother, a chorister and soloist in the Bodden Town Presbyterian Church, which began his love for music.

When Edward was almost a teen, Mirindi married Thomas Burnis Berry, known affectionately by everyone as Bun-Bun. Burnis became his role model so much so that at the age of 14 he signed up with National Bulk Carriers to join his stepfather at sea. After a number of years of sailing to various ports around the world Edward returned home in 1961 where he got involved in the Cayman music scene. In 1963 he again left Cayman to move to New York to attend college and lived with his Uncle Edwin Kitchener Solomon (Uncle K), his mother's older brother. He enrolled and attended the famous New York University but after some time in school he realized that music and fashion were his calling so he dropped out to pursue them full time. Edward held a few jobs in New York, but the one that had the greatest influence on him was his time with the world famous Alvin Ailey Dance Theater. He started as a gofer, eventually becoming a percussionist in the music ensemble accompanying the dancers. With the desire to fully immerse himself into the music business he returned to Cayman in 1966 and was a founding member of the musical group, The King Bees, which eventually changed its name to The Humble & The Meek.

In 1969 Edward met Jacinta (Joey) Linda Clifford of Portland, Maine while playing at one of his many gigs around the island with his band. The story he often repeated to his kids was that he saw their mother in the crowd and was so interested in finding out who she was that he asked John Henry Ebanks, one of his bandmates to find out her name. He then proceeded to dedicate a song to her and even left the microphone in the middle of the song to go and talk with her. The song dedication obviously worked as they married in February of 1970 and that same year their first child, Jamil was born. Also in 1970 Edward and Joey opened the doors to the upscale clothing emporium Arabus. In 1973 their second child, Tauna, was born. Edward and Joey divorced in the late 70's but remained close friends until Joey's death in 2016 and Edward never gave up on his love for her. In the early 80's Edward gained another daughter when Tauna's best friend Krista came to stay with the family for a time. Even though Tauna moved to the US to live with her mother in the mid 80's, Krista and Edward remained in contact and in the final years of his life she was a constant companion and blessing to his life.

In the late 80's Edward formed Mainstream. The group started as a seven piece ensemble but the makeup changed over the years as several local musicians floated in and out of the group but the constant always being Leonard Bodden, his old bandmate from The Humble & The Meek. Edward always took pride in mentoring Cayman's music talent. For his many years of contributions to the Cayman music scene Edward was honored with the Cayman Islands Music Association Icon Award in 2016. Unfortunately he was forced to limit his performances beginning at the start of 2020 after he had to undertake a major operation and was subsequently diagnosed with Parkinson's and Dementia.

A major part of Edward's day to day life was Arabus Boutique. For 49 years he opened his shop six days a week and sold upscale fashion to both men and women. In that time he influenced a number of locals from budding boutique owners to fashion models and outfitted a plethora of locals in the finest fashions from Europe and America. Edward's connections in the fashion industry stretched from Cayman to New York and even Milan, Italy. He was well known and respected by fashion houses and designers for his unique eye and flair for clothing and style. One of his saddest days was December 31st of 2019 when he closed the doors to Arabus for the last time.

Edward's Journey

Edward's greatest personal accomplishment, besides his children, he would say, was when he turned his life to Christ. He joined the congregation of Church of God Chapel George Town. There he was baptized and became one of the leaders of the Praise and Worship Team. Almost every Sunday morning without fail he could be found up on the church stage playing his Congo drums and singing hymns with a Motown twist. While serving in the church he unexpectedly found a calling. Every Sunday afternoon he would head to Northward Prison and fellowship, teach, and sing for the inmates. For many of them he worked hard to arrange jobs after they were released. He derived great joy from this service.

Edward was a family man. He played a lot of roles in his professional life but in his personal life he was a devoted father, doting grandfather, loving brother, caring uncle, and a friend when many needed it. Most would point to his involvement in music or fashion as his legacy but truly it was the way he always had a dollar for someone down on their luck, a smile when life seemed dark, a joke when your day was going bad, and an attentive ear when all you needed was someone to listen. His impact was very evident in all of the messages left on the Compass Facebook article announcing his passing and that is the measure of the man.

Preceding Edward in death were his dear mother Mirindi, step father Burnis, father Harwell (Harry), ex-wife Joey, and brother Rupert.

Left to mourn:

Children – Jamil (Simone), Tauna (Michael), and Krista (Nevron)

Brothers – Harwell and Kerith

Sister – Cheryl

Son-In-Laws – Michael Alcott, Nevron Bradshaw

Daughter-In-Law—Simone

Grandchildren – Kashira, Logan, and Zayden

Great grandchildren

Nieces and Nephews

Host of family, especially his Brooklyn, NY cousins with whom he was very close to.

Many who started as friends but became family over the years.

Special mentions from Jamil—

Brenda Hydes—family, sister, confidant, and cook of many of his favourite meals. You argued daily like brother and sister but nothing could come between you, not even Sherine and I. Thank you for loving on dad for so many years.

Cathy Gomez for years of friendship and companionship in church and in the prison ministry.

Claire Watson who started as a helper but became a little sister to dad and a surrogate mom to Tauna and I. Thank you for taking care of us for so many years.

Bonnie Anglin whose friendship and love helped dad come out of some of his darkest times. Thank you for being his guiding light when he most needed it.

Jesse Alberto. You became like a brother to dad and he treasured that until his last breath. Thank you

Tributes

It's hard to say goodbye to a God-gifted and talented person with a shining face, big heart and a smile for everyone. You were born with a gift for music and a voice inherited from your mother Mirindi and our paternal grandmother, Anita McCoy. God raised you up to bring forth his Divine melody in your voice and inspire every soul. The Lord shone his face upon your face to light-up everyone who encountered you. I am so proud of who you were.

Everytime I visited you, your face would light up with a shining smile. You always kissed me and showed me love all the time because I was your only sister. I will always miss you in my heart. God has come to take you home and you're now at peace with him. Love you always.

Your sister Cheryl

Sollie, I can't believe you're gone; I guess God needed another angel. I can remember when I worked at a restaurant across from your store on Fort Street, whenever you would come in you were always so friendly and wearing that amazing smile.

Years later after I met Kerith, I was surprised to learn you were his brother. I recall one occasion when the family was gathered at the family home in Bodden Town for Sunday dinner and I'd brought a cake. As you came in, you asked for a piece and anytime after that you saw me you asked if I had any cake. Of course, I would indulge you and would always take you a piece of my latest dessert. You loved them so much.

You were so loving and kind and never missed an occasion to give a lovely gift. We will miss you at family gatherings and I'll continue to eat a piece of cake for you. You will live on in our hearts and in the memories we shared with you. May your soul rest in peace.

Your beloved sister-in-law, Mary

Your time on Earth was special
So were the memories made
And although you live in Heaven now
Those memories will never fade

We bow our heads in silence
And remember our uncle with love
And we know you are up there
Watching over us from above

You will always be remembered
And may time heal our hearts
But a piece of our family is missing
Since the day we had to part.

Heaven is for Angels
And we know that's where you are
May your voice live on forever
In our lives and in our hearts

Sleep in Peace Uncle Sollie, Thank you for your kindness

Love: Casandra, Kayleigh & Kevin-Michael

Tributes

Dad there's a void in our lives to know that you're gone. You were the first person to welcome me in the family. There was never a day that I encountered you and you weren't smiling and telling everyone "this, my daughter-in-law, this is Jamil's wife." Your smile was like a "Ray of Sunshine".

I am glad that you had the opportunity to spend five months with us in Orlando and enjoyed that you sang for me most evenings. You will always be remembered for your beautiful smile and the great work that you did on earth before heaven gained another angel.

SIP dad! From Simone

My Dear Uncle Edward,

I remember being so proud, when Grampa commandeered me to be a part of your "Welcome to the McCoy Family" celebration. It began, unknowingly to me, as a sign of my role in helping to facilitate family togetherness for years to come. Although we didn't have our uncle/niece bond until my late teens, the impact of being a beneficiary of your love has had a profound impact on my life, and subsequently my daughter's life as well.

When trying to put into words, how much you mean to me and how much you will be missed. I just began listing all of the special moments with you that although small individually had the greatest impact on what I loved about being your niece. Your weekly "I just called to say "I love ya"" calls, bumping into you in Kirk's during grab and go lunches, your fashion input when I had a big event coming up, your big smile, and your boisterous laugh, the way you enjoyed my cooking and especially my baking. I miss the largeness of you and your presence. Most of all, I miss the ease in which you and I conversed - in your nonjudgmental, easy listening way. We talked about anything and everything under the sun, and to have that ability to communicate with you in that way will always stand out to me. Thank you for the impact you had not only in my life, but in our family and in our community. You will truly be missed by us all, and your loss is the last epic cord of a song well played. I am comforted in the knowledge that you are now part of the praise and worship team in Heaven, singing for our Lord and Saviour. Rest well our darling uncle.

Love always, Faith & Alyssa.

Once, during our many days together at Arabus, I put on a Christmas album of a singer that I loved. While singing around the shop and getting ready it ready for the holidays, I noticed that Uncle Eddie wasn't really so into any of the songs. I asked him "Unc, don't you like this singer?" He shook his head. "No, no. He don't gah no soul, man. He don't gah no soul." We laughed together as we changed the album. A couple of years later, I walked into the shop and there he was, enjoying the very same album, with the same singer. I said to him: "Unc! You listening to him? I thought you said he didn't have any soul!" There was a small pause. Then, that charming smile of his slowly climbed across his face and he said, with a wink, "I guess he gah a little soul after all."

Although we share many memories together of being in the shop, laughing together, late-night Law and Order rerun binges, sharing his vinyl collection with Trai and singing together at restaurants, what remains with me most is how much he was a man of true heart and soul.

So, to our uncle and very dear friend, you were an incredible presence in our lives. We don't ever think we'll ever have the words to accurately describe just how much. But most of all, thank you for leaving some "soul" behind for blessing us with the special gift of yours.

Love always, Grace & Trai

Tributes

A kinder, more giving person than Edward Solomon I've not come across.

We've been friends for forty years and looked forward to celebrating his birthdays in Cayman for as many years. From his music, an initial draw, to his excellent taste in choosing beautiful garments for Arabus, Edward never disappointed. His Rest in Peace, dear Edward and make beautiful music wherever you are.

Marisa Palmisano

Solly was my mentor, my friend, my cousin and my brother and taught me fashion back in the 70's. We worked together in Arabus for a number of years before I went to New York where I worked in the fashion industry with a designer from Italy who taught me a lot about the business.

I returned to the Cayman Islands and back to Arabus with Solly and we worked for many enjoyable years together with so many fun days full of mischief, laughter and, importantly, music of which Solly was a great influence especially with Jazz. He had, I believe, the largest collection of LP's on the Island.

I will miss you my friend with all my heart and I am grateful that Solly was able to come and spend some time on our porch up in North Side, listening to music like he always did.

Lots of love my cousin to you and the family

'Germ' (Freddy Cayasso)

My dearest Lanslotte, Yes most people knew you as Ed or Sollie but that's the special name we shared during our lifelong friendship.

There are so many memories that keep reminding me of who you were and all that we shared as family and as friend. You were the most amazing and kindest person I know. You were my mentor for fashion advice, my coach when I opened and owned my boutiques, pioneer of high end fashion to the Cayman Islands and you introduced some of the most fabulous fashion shows. Inspired by you at a young age and never seen as competition, you embraced and welcomes me to retail industry and warmly supported me for many years. You were always available to offer a helping hand and advice through the good times and the challenging ones. Your generosity and selflessness are what made you stand out from the rest. The laughter and our socializing in the fashion industry and as friend, your music gigs; all fond memories never to be forgotten.

To you on this day, with a broken heart and sadness in my soul, I bid you farewell, but, not even death can break the bond we shared. Your memory will never fade. You have left your footprints on the sand of time.

Till we meet again. Rest in peace, my dear friend.

Tribute by Lana Cayasso

Tributes

In Loving Memory of
Edward
...a Cayman Treasure....
Affectionately known as "Sollie"
~ You are remembered for your Heart filled with Love ~

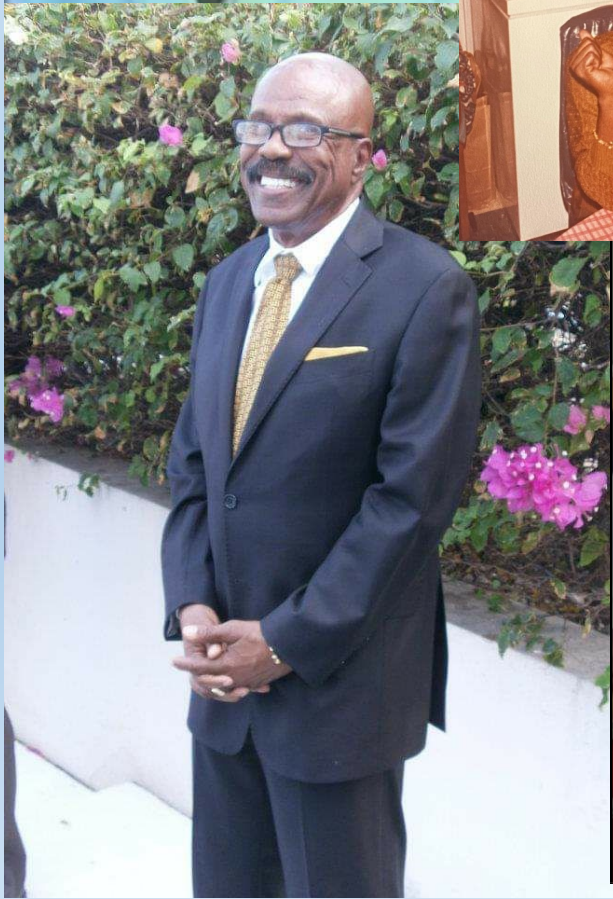
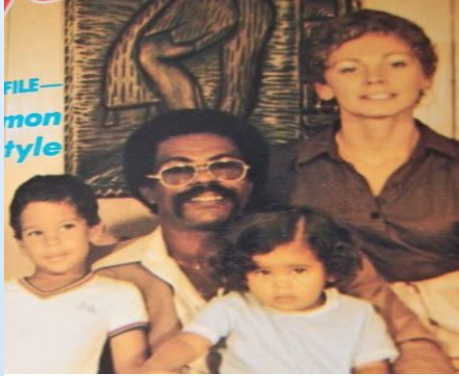


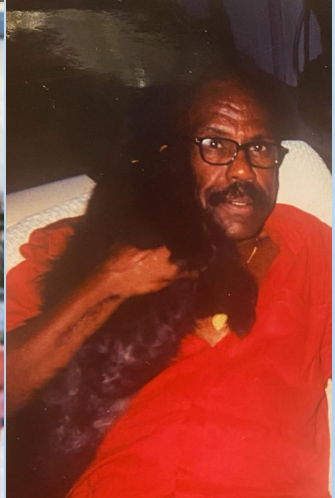
A Heart fill with Love and compassion for others
A Heart filled with Love to serve others
A Heart filled with Love for all God's children
A Heart filled with Love for the downtrodden
A Heart filled with Love for friends and neighbours
A Heart filled with Love to spread Love on earth
A Heart filled with generosity
A Heart filled with joy and laughter
A Heart filled with Love of music, fashion, design and African artifacts
A Heart filled with Love for home and country
And, most of all ...
A Heart filled with unconditional Love for Family.

You served the Lord well in your selfless service to others
Rest now in the light and peace of our Lord.
In God's Love

Wendy







Graveside Service

Opening Remarks	Pastor Alson Ebanks
Prayer.....	Pastor Alson Ebanks
Hymn “How Great Thou Art” & Lowering of the Casket	
Committal.....	Pastor Alson Ebanks
Hymn “The Old Rugged Cross”	
“Somewhere Over The Rainbow”	Gary Ebanks
Hymn “Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone”	
Closing Prayer & Benediction.....	Pastor Alson Ebanks



The Family of the late Edward Solomon wish to express their sincere and heartfelt thanks to their many relatives and friends whose support and sympathy has meant so much during this difficult time.

A special thanks to the staff of Doctor’s Hospital, especially Dr. Sidney Ebanks, a second son of Edward, for years of attentive care, Dr. Darley Solomon for his excellent surgical care, and to his caregiver, Kaidian, for making his final days comfortable and bringing out that famous Sollie smile every day .

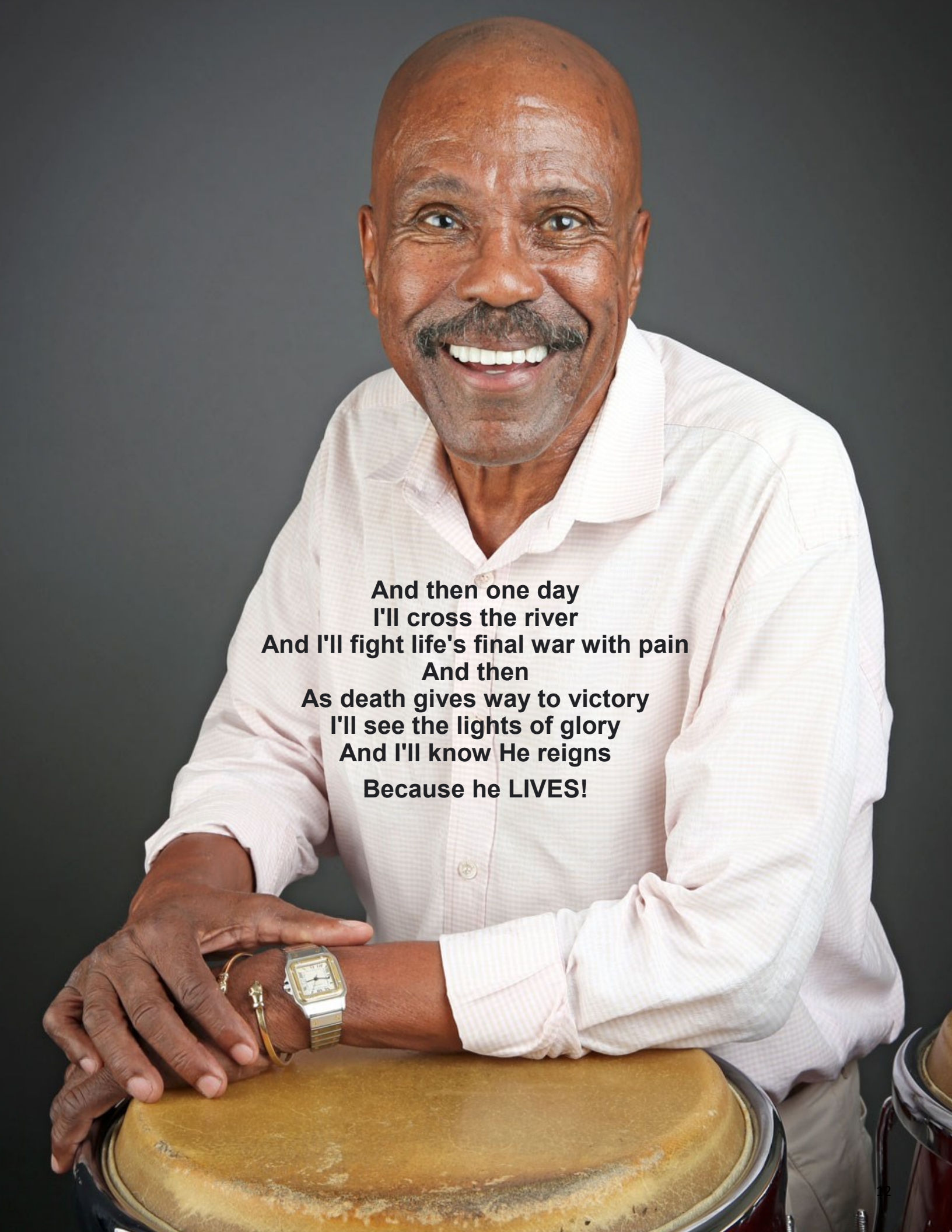
To the staff of CI Hospital/H.S.A, thank you so very much for the care you took with Edward.

Many thanks to Bodden’s Funeral Home for the excellent service and compassion.

To the staff of Eating Klean many thanks for your care of “papa.”

To all of the patrons who faithfully supported Arabus over its 49 years a very special thanks.

To everyone who enjoyed Edward’s musical performances for over 60 years we hope that it brought joy into your lives.



**And then one day
I'll cross the river
And I'll fight life's final war with pain
And then
As death gives way to victory
I'll see the lights of glory
And I'll know He reigns
Because he LIVES!**